

Message Text

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ORIGIN AID-39

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AIDAC

E. O. 11652: GDS

JOINT STATE- AID MESSAGE

SUBJECT: INOUYE SUBCOMMITTEE TRIP REPORT

A. FOLLOWING ARE THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON
LAOS PRESENTED IN SUBJECT REPORT (FULL TEXT OF WHI(H AIR-
POUCHED TO EMBASSY AND USAID MAY 14:

QTE: 1. UNITED STATES SUPPORT TO LAOS IS ALMOST WHOLLY
DIRECTED TO WARTIME PROBLEMS -- THE ARMING AND SUPPORT OF
MILITARY FORCES, ECONOMIC STABILIZATION PROGRAMS, AND
REFUGEE PROGRAMS.

2. AS THE TEMPO OF THE WAR CHANGES, THE CHARACTER AND
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COMPOSITION OF UNITED STATES PROGRAMS ALSO MUST CHANGE BUT THE DELEGATION SOUGHT IN VAIN TO GET ANY CLEAR IDEA OF THE FUTURE UNITED STATES INVOLVEMENT IN LAOS. THE DELEGATION DOES NOT FAVOR A CONTINUATION OF MILITARY SUPPORT ON ANYTHING LIKE THE PRESENT SCALE SINCE THE SITUATION IN LAOS CALLS FOR A POLITICAL RATHER THAN A MILITARY SOLUTION.

3. ONE AREA OF HUMANITARIAN INTEREST IS THE WAR VICTIM AND REFUGEE SITUATION. THE COMMITTEE IS GRATIFIED TO KNOW THAT THE MISSION HAS BEEN RESPONSIVE TO PAST CRITICISM AND THAT THERE ARE PLANS TO CARE FOR THESE UNFORTUNATE VICTIMS IN THE POST CEASEFIRE PERIOD.

4. THE COMMITTEE WANTS ASSURANCES THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH HAS LIVED WITHIN THE DOLLAR CEILING ON ASSISTANCE INCLUDING DIRECT TRANSFERS TO LAOS. IT DIRECTS THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE TO REVIEW AND REPORT BY JUNE 30, 1973, ON THE COMPLETENESS OF EXPENDITURES REPORTED FOR LAOS.

5. THE COMMITTEE UNDERSTANDS THAT THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE NOW HAS A REVIEW UNDERWAY IN LAOS THAT WILL LOOK INTO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ALL UNITED STATES PROGRAMS. THE COMMITTEE WELCOMES ANY VIEWS OR RECOMMENDATIONS THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE MAY HAVE AT THE CONCLUSION OF ITS FIELD REVIEW ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE OPERATIONS FUND AND ON THE USE AND CONDITION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE MATERIEL PROVIDED TO LAOS.

6. THE COMMITTEE DIRECTS THE GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON EXCESS COSTS TO THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF MONOPOLISTIC PRACTICES THAT LIMIT PRICE COMPETITION FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES IN THAILAND, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON UNITED STATES EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION.

7. THE DELEGATION'S EFFORTS TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT AND COSTS OF UNITED STATES SUPPORT TO LAOS OTHER THAN THROUGH THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE WERE FRUSTRATED BECAUSE EVERY OFFICIAL WITH WHOM THE DELEGATION SPOKE DISCLAIMED KNOWLEDGE OF OVERALL FACTS AND FIGURES.

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8. THE DELEGATION NOTED THE BROAD SECURITY RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH HAVE BEEN THRUST ON THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO LAOS AND HIS OBVIOUS RELISH IN CARRYING THEM OUT. IT QUESTIONS WHETHER THE RESULTING IMAGE IS A DESIRABLE ONE OR ONE THAT SHOULD BE PROJECTED BY DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL. UNQTE.

B. RE SEPARATE CIRCTEL REQUEST FOR VIEWS ON CLASSIFI-
CATION SUBJECT REPORT, STATE- AID STAFF VIEW IS THAT ENTIRE
LAOS SECTION CAN BE UNCLASSIFIED. BUT WILL OF COURSE
AWAIT YOUR VIEWS BEFORE ADVISING INOUYE. RUSH

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